

Governor Major's Able Presentation of National and State Issues

(Continued from Page One)

of War has knocked at the portals of every nation, and among the great powers the American republic alone has denied him admission; and, while misery, despair, wreck, ruin and grief are following in his wake in other lands, America is busy in reaping the harvest of honest toil, and in building a temple in which England, France, Belgium, Serbia, Russia and Austria will after a while, turn their battle-worn banners, set down in common council, adjust their differences and agree to a world-wide peace which will last throughout the century.

Will Arbitrate World's Disputes

The course followed by our government will make our nation the arbiter of world disputes, and the name of the United States synonymous with honor, justice and the highest thought of ten of twenty centuries. The heart of America is satisfied with our national labors, and the man who battles against these great policies in this hour of world travail, will be driven backward, step by step, before the bayonets of public opinion and the cavalry of popular condemnation. The public servant, no matter whether legislative or executive, can no longer hide behind alibi words and sophistry, but his official acts must stand out in the broad sunlight and be judged according to the deeds done in official life.

If President Wilson renders no other service than to conduct the ship of state safely into the harbor of peace, then he will have rendered a service to the American people which no one can measure, and for which the present and future generations will ever bless him. President Wilson's victories of diplomacy are more glorious than the success of arms of any of the nations upon the field of battle. If he had rendered no service other than turning about the enactment of the new currency legislation, making money practically impossible, breaking the grip of Wall Street on the finances of our country, and producing an elastic currency to meet every situation, and especially needed in this trying hour of foreign wars, he would have given us a piece of progress and constructive legislation the equal of which has not been measured in a half century. Firm and unshaking, he demanded a large number of regional banks, as opposed to a smaller number advocated by Wall Street and its followers. This result of the securing of twelve regional banks out of which this splendid commonwealth secured two, or one-sixth of the entire number. Had the financial interests prevailed in their fight on this point, then Missouri would have been without a single regional bank.

The President's Great Service

If President Wilson had rendered no other service than fastening the enactment of the Underwood tariff bill, an act which has raised the standard of living, bringing relief to millions, and which will be felt in a more potent way when the design war is closed, he will have rendered a service which will have touched more than twenty millions of American homes. In fact, his administration has been filled with great things, and he has labored honestly, faithfully and long. This great man, as he labors upon the highway of his man affairs, is rich in years, rich in glory, rich in public services, rich in deeds and rich in the hearts of his fellow men. He stands four square with the world, and measured by the standard of patriotism, justice and fidelity, is full statured. Could Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Monroe, Lincoln and Grant speak from the dead, Mount Vernon, Monticello, and the tombs of those other illustrious soldiers and statesmen would give praise even unto the highest.

The policies of the president, world-wide conditions, war and the Panama canal, have brought the United States to the dawn of a new commercial era, and a new commercial day is dawning when the stars and stripes will float upon every sea, and when, under new legislation, our merchant marine will be the absolute master of the commerce of the three Americas.

The Center of Finance

Today the United States has become the center of the financial world, and is first in its agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests. As night follows day, so surely must it follow that the republic must come into its own, and become the cross-road of the richest over-the-sea commerce the world has ever known. The United States is the polar star among the nations of the earth, and President Wilson is the one colossal figure in international life, and the one central figure in the destinies of today.

The United States, which is two-fold richer than any nation beneath the sun, stronger in its citizenship, stronger in its defense of inalienable rights, is more firmly entrenched by reason of its citizenship, its agricultural, commerce, finance, and its civilization, the achievements of peace, than by its crowning ships, embattled walls and panoplies of war. The victories of peace are more lasting and greater far than the brilliant pageantry of martial splendor, the bust of commercial energy is sweeter than the rattle of arms, and the products of industry more beautiful than the glint of sunlight upon bannered thousands.

Not Marked by Graves

The avenues over which must pass this triumphal march is not marked by fields of carnage nor whitened stones over a million graves. The glory of the American republic is the light which now shines throughout the world, and will make it the final arbiter in the settlement of the disputes among the nations of the earth. The sparks from the clash of the swords of diplomacy have brought us victories from across the seas, and the policy of "wait-and-see," as applied to the Mexican republic, is indicative of the spirit that has been in it all along. It is in favor of that procedure only which is reasonably necessary to protect the honor and the interests of the great American republic, and is satisfied to leave the question of war to reasonable necessity to the president.

Let the state and steppe be the symbol of agriculture, manufacture, finance, commerce, education, honor, justice, and the highest there is in civilization and not the emblem of militarism.

The Matter of State Affairs

While the national administration has been busy in the larger affairs, we have been busy at home, in looking after the smaller things. As governor of the people, I have earnestly and conscientiously labored for those things which would in every way build up the commonwealth. The record has been written and can speak for itself. Every department in the state government can show a net return greater than the same department ever gave in the same length of time in the past in any administration. For the last six months returns from school revenues and from bond taxation, however, the stress of the increase in the number of saloons and an increased drug territory, and the returns from the state penitentiary caused by the abolishing of the contract system, have naturally decreased. The falling off in the income in these two instances is the result of fights made by the people, and not by reason of any failure of any officer or department.

When I was inaugurated governor, I pledged the people I would bring about progressive and constructive legislation, which would more to the benefit of the state. I have requested that promise. The most pertinent of some of these larger progressive laws enacted will tell the story without comment. In the session of 1913 the legislature, among other things, enacted the following:

What We Pledged the People

1. The law providing the board of pardons and paroles, and which has labored for good on the human side of life.
2. The public service commission, which the secretary of the federal government saw in the abstract and best in substance.
3. The highway department, the work of which is felt in every community.
4. The road-ding law, whereby the state contributes a quarter of a million dollars biennially to aid in the construction of thousands of miles of roads in the state.
5. Five new school laws, giving aid to weak rural public school districts, city schools and establishing a teachers' training course in practically every county in the state, etc., special aid under these laws has been given to every county.
6. A law permitting salesmen and other parties who are absent from their homes on election day, to cast their votes by mail anywhere in the state.
7. A new act providing proper conditions for the letting of state contracts, and under which the state has secured the highest rate of interest on its deposits ever secured before, net with standing money rates generally have been lower.
8. The grain inspection department.
9. A law giving to cities the right to adopt a commission form of government.
10. The corporation supervision act, netting about \$100,000, which goes into the good roads fund.

Many Other Measures Passed

In addition to these, there were passed many laws affecting the safety, health and good government of the citizens of the state. These fifteen acts alone make the single session enacting them stand out prominently in the legislative history of Missouri. In the session of 1915 there were passed, among many other laws, the following nine acts of great importance, and which make the session occupy a high place among legislatures: 1. The general banking act, where, in, among other things, the state laws now articulate with the new federal currency law. 2. The Missouri land bank act, providing for a system of rural credits, and being the first act of the kind in the United States. 3. The act establishing the Missouri reformatory at Bonneville, and providing for the separating of the inmates into classes, establishing separate departments for each class, and providing a new method of reforming the inmates and first offenders. 4. The enlargement of the twin plant at the penitentiary, whereby simple twice may be manufactured and supplied to the farmers at cost. 5. An act providing for the conducting of manufactures in the penitentiary at the end of the contract system. 6. The establishment of a commission for the blind, to provide industries whereby these unfortunate may earn for themselves a livelihood. 7. New insurance laws, establishing an insurance bureau, etc. 8. A new school law, giving additional aid to weak rural public schools. 9. An act articulating with the Smith-Lever act, whereby the state of Missouri, through the agricultural college, will secure from the federal government this year between \$50,000 and \$100,000, to aid in the propaganda for better agriculture in Missouri, and more than that sum each year hereafter.

Cut Down Needless Expenditures

This legislature over-appropriated the revenues something like three million dollars, but I voted and held up more than two million dollars, with the stipulation and understanding that if the revenues did not increase sufficiently to absorb the balance, that the added amount would be held up to the end the appropriations would not exceed the revenues for the biennial period. Aside from this progressive legislative program, the cornerstones of the state administration have been better roads, better schools, better agriculture and better community life. In these matters the democracy of the state has made a record which can not be surpassed in the history of the commonwealth. Every intelligent man will confess that the administration has given more and better laws, bringing about the advancement in the cause of popular education, than in any period of ten years in the history of the state.

Five Pieces of Progressive School Legislation

Five pieces of progressive school legislation were enacted in 1913, the official reports upon which have been made enabling us now to take inventory. The first of these new laws provides special state aid for weak rural school districts. Whenever the funds of such districts, plus the public school moneys distributed each year, are insufficient to provide an eight-months session, in such event, the state contributes enough to make up the deficit, thereby giving and guaranteeing to the boys and girls in every county district in the state an opportunity for eight months school work in each scholastic year. This year we give this special aid to 1,801 school districts, thereby giving educational opportunities to more than 100,000 boys and girls in rural Missouri, who never enjoyed such advantages before. This special aid to these districts amounts to \$274,621. This splendid service under the new law reaches practically every portion of rural Missouri, because districts are aided in 113 of the 115 counties of the state.

For the Weak School Districts

Another new law provides for aid to weak town, city or consolidated school districts, situated as village schools. Districts enrolling such districts to maintain an approved high school, and providing special aid in some districts from \$200 to \$1,000, and in 248 city or village schools in the state, and being special aid and help these schools have never enjoyed before. Another new law provides for the establishment of rural high schools throughout the state, and wherein the state gives aid in the sum of \$2,000 for building and equipping a central high school building, and from \$200 to \$300 per annum for maintenance. Under this new law, there have been established in the state fifty-nine rural high schools, and the money is paid therefrom from the general fund, for which purpose \$125,000 has been appropriated.

Another new law provides for the establishment of a teachers' training course in the high schools of the state, the same to be selected by the state superintendent of public schools. Not more than two can be established in any one county. The state gives special aid in the sum of \$750 per annum, and if there are two in the same county, then the sum of \$1,200 per annum, or \$600 for each school is given. Under this new law, the teachers' training course has been placed in ninety-seven of the high schools of the state, and more than two thousand young men and women are taking the course and equipping themselves for school work and to do their part in the advancement of the cause of education. In other words, two thousand young men and women have remained at home, slept under the parental roof, broke bread at the family table, and prepared themselves to teach in the schools of the state. The legislature appropriated \$160,000 for this purpose out of the general revenue.

So the People May Know

I have given this brief summary of the new school legislation, together with the results, to the end the people may know, and more fully realize and appreciate the work done along educational lines during this administration.

This record of abundant facts speaks for itself

The efficiency of our system of popular education is the beginning and the way of true progress and achievements which the dawn of tomorrow will not destroy. All this special aid has been given, and that without any increase whatever in the rate of taxation. Recently there have been many headlines in sensational newspapers as to the public school fund of the state. A suit is pending in the supreme court to determine certain legal questions that absolutely must be settled and determined, for the interest of both the public schools themselves, and for the state. This suit will in no way affect the distribution nor the amount of money that will go to the public schools of Missouri. No matter how the case is decided, the public schools will get their money just the same, and when they have received it, then you will realize the full force of the headline. No one for an instant doubts but what the public schools will get the amount of money, and more, than has been heretofore given to them. But you will always find those who are willing to make a charge, and who are as wanting in facts to sustain the same as they are in sincerity in making the charge.

The public will freely confess that more has been done in the construction of good roads, and in road betterments during this administration than any period of ten years preceding, and that a better agriculture and a better community life is maintaining itself in every section of the commonwealth.

The state spends upon the highways, out of its revenues, almost a half million dollars annually. The great majority of the counties of the commonwealth receive from the state government more money each year for roads and education than these counties pay to support the state government.

We have today a system of more than 10,000 miles of state highways, dragged under a state law and for which the commonwealth pays more than \$250,000 biennially.

Not a Campaign Speech

This is not the opening of a state campaign, therefore I have lightly touched these matters, because time is wanting in which to discuss fully the achievements of the administration. This I shall do later, and at the proper time. Suffice it to say the democracy of Missouri has labored diligently and earnestly along all lines to bring a beneficial result to the commonwealth, irrespective of politics, and we shall continue so to do.

I would rather go down in the history of my state as a good road, good school and good community life governor than to bear any plaudits at the hands of the people.

The laws enacted, and the beneficial results therefrom, have themselves made this a progressive and constructive administration. It has rendered the service to the people in every department, and is willing to rest its case upon the labor done.

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Smith lived in a neighborhood where there were many pianos, phonographs, barking dogs and sweet children, and finding that sleep was impossible, he began to look around for a quiet retreat. Finally he found it on the top of a mountain, and great was his happiness.

One day, however, he appeared in town looking extremely sad, and his friends quickly questioned him as to the cause.

"It's no use, boys," he responded in a dejected voice. "It is simply a waste of time to fight the inevitable." "Yesterday a young man came up on the mountain," explained Smith, "and pitched a tent near my bungalow. This morning he told me that he was going to spend the summer there learning to play the violin."

Pay of Capital Employees.

Uncle Sam has more than 26,000 employees in Washington to whom he pays an average of \$1,135 a year, or a total of about \$41,140,000. The highest average salaries are paid to White House employees who get \$1,500 a year, and the lowest is paid to employees in the state, war and navy building, averaging \$59 a year. Co-operative buying is now practiced by a part of the employees and it is suggested that this and other co-operative activities might be profitably practiced by the entire army of Uncle Sam's workers in the capital city.

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